

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 COA-02 CG-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CEQ-02

COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19

AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01

DRC-01 TRSE-00 /232 W

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R 032042Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0927

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2952

FROM LOS TEAM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, XM, UY

SUBJECT: LOS CONSULTATIONS WITH URUGUAY

1. LOS TEAM MET IN TWO SESSIONS WITH URUGUAYAN EXPERTS

APRIL 20. PRESENT WERE:

DR. EDISON GONZALEZ-LAPEYRE, LEGAL ADVISOR TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY.

DR. GUALBRETO TALAMAS, LEGAL ADVISOR TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.

DR. JULIO BENITEZ, SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS.

LCDR CARLOS ENRIQUE IBARRA-HERNANDEZ, NAVAL ADVISOR TO

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FOREIGN MINISTRY.

IN ADDITION TO FORMAL MEETINGS AND LUNCHEON, TEAM MADE COURTESY CALL ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AND OXMAN GAVE SHORT, PUBLIC PRESS BRIEFING AT EMBASSY.

2. GOU WELL PREPARED AND OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH VISIT OF US TEAM. EMBASSY REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE ADVANCE PUBLICITY IN LOCAL PRESS. GONZALEZ TOOK LEAD ON MOST ISSUES, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF HIS LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, ALTHOUGH IBARRA WAS VERY CONVERSANT WITH SCIENCE ISSUE AND TEAM BELIEVES HE MAY HAVE BEEN CO-AUTHOR OF GOU ARTICLES ON SUBJECT. DUE TO LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE, DISCUSSIONS LIMITED TO FOLLOWING ISSUES:

A. TERRITORIAL SEA AT GOU'S REQUEST, TEAM WENT STRAIGHT TO THIS ISSUE AS ONE OF MOST INTEREST TO THEM. THEY DESCRIBED THEIR POSITION AS "EXTREME" AND ALTHOUGH UNDERSTANDING PROBLEMS CREATED BY USE OF TERM "TERRITORIAL SEA" NONETHELESS INDICATED THEY WANTED SOME RESIDUAL SOVEREIGNTY OUT TO 200 MILES. THEY THEN INDICATED THAT THEY WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH US PRESENTATION ON SUBJECT AND GOU EXPERTS WOULD MEET PERSONALLY WITH FONMIN UPON HIS RETURN FROM ATLANTA AND PRESENT "COMMON POINTS AND THOSE THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CONCILIATION." THEY STATED IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC LEGAL BASE, BUT FELT IT ESSENTIAL THERE BE NEW INTERNATIONAL LAW AGREED BY ALL, "AND ESPECIALLY THE SUPERPOWERS."

B. FISHING TO OPEN THE FISHERIES DISCUSSION, GONZALEZ PROVIDED A LOCAL PRESS ARTICLE CONCERNING THE MAGNUSON BILL AND ASKED HOW IT AFFECTED OUR POSITION. GOU ALSO VERY PROUD OF THEIR RECENT TREATY WITH ARGENTINA OVER RIO PLATA BOUNDARY AND CITED COOPERATIVE FISHING AGREEMENT CLAUSE AS MODEL FOR NEIGHBORING STATE AGREEMENT. THEY ARE AWARE OF HUGE FISH RESOURCE OFF THEIR COAST AND INDICATED PLANS TO DEVELOP AN INDUSTRY, AND TO LICENSE FOREIGN FISHING. THEY ARE CONCERNED OVER CONSERVATION OF RESOURCE AND CLAIMED THAT DURING SOVIET INCURSION IN 1968 THEY TOOK 800,000 TONS OF HAKE IN TWO MONTHS. GOU EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH OUR POSITION ON TUNA, AND SAID THEY THOUGHT PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED.

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C. COASTAL SEABEDS GOU EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OUR CSEA PROPOSAL AND ESPECIALLY IN INTEGRITY OF INVESTMENT CLAUSE. THEY SAID THIS WAS NOT "THEORETICAL PROBLEM" FOR GOU SINCE THEY HAD RECENTLY COMMISSIONED FRENCH TO CONDUCT SURVEYS OF THEIR SHELF AND RESULTS INDICATED POSSIBILITY OF OIL. THEY ARE HOPING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ABOUT FIVE YEARS AND SAID THEY WANTED TO BE IN AGREEMENT WITH US ON THIS, AND THAT THEIR POSITION WAS "VERY BROAD." THEY INDICATED THAT PRESENCE OF OIL WAS THEIR

"GREAT HOPE" AS REVIVAL OF ECONOMY WAS INVOLVED.

D. MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GOU VERY INTERESTED IN THIS ISSUE AND CONSIDERABLE TIME SPENT DISCUSSING IT. GOU REACTION TO OUR ARTICLES WAS POSITIVE, BUT THEY ENDED DISCUSSION BY SAYING "ONLY ONE ISSUE SEPARATES US" REFERRING TO CONSENT REQUIREMENT. THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE SOME DESIRE TO PROTECT FISHERIES INFORMATION AND EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE OVER FAO STATISTICS IN THIS REGARD, STATING THE DATA WAS COLLECTED BY "SUPER POWER" AND THEY ARE NOW IN PROCESS OF EXAMINING IT. (THEY ARE CONCERNED OVER THEIR INABILITY TO INTERPRET DATA AND JOKINGLY SUGGESTED THEY MIGHT BORROW US SCIENTISTS TO PLACE ON SOVIET RESEARCH VESSELS.) THEY REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO SOVIETS, AND STATED THEY WERE AFRAID OF "WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING." IBARRA TWICE SAID THEY HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIETS, AND THAT EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD PLACED A NAVAL OFFICER ON BOARD ONE OF THE SOVIET SHIPS, THEY DISCOVERED LATER THAT THE SHIP WAS CONDUCTING "STRATEGIC STUDIES."

E. SOVIET INITIATIVE GOU STATED THAT ALTHOUGH SOVIET DELEGATION HAS NOT VISITED MONTEVIDEO, GOU OFFICIALS (UNNAMED) HAD GONE TO BA AND PARTICIPATED IN TALK THERE WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR KOLOSOSOVSKY.

F. BRAZILIAN POSITION BOTH RODRIGUEZ AND IBARRA STATED THAT BRAZIL'S STRIDENT LOS POLICY WAS BASED ON ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ARGENTINA AND NOT ON NATIONAL INTERESTS. THEY FELT THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, BRAZIL WOULD GO WITH THE MAJORITY AND NEGOTIATE IN ITS OWN INTERESTS. IBARRA, WHO ATTENDED THE MAR DEL PLATA CONFERENCE, STATED THAT "A BRAZILIAN ADMIRAL" HAD TOLD HIM INFORMALLY THERE THAT BRAZIL WAS PREPARING TO MAKE A SHIFT IN ITS LOS POLICIES.

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3. COMMENT: GOU'S LOS POLICIES SEEM INFLUENCED STRONGLY BY THEIR TRADITIONAL ROLE AS BUFFER BETWEEN BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA, ALTHOUGH THEY DO HAVE A STRONG INTEREST IN RESOURCES OFF THEIR COAST. WHETHER THEY WILL ACTUALLY SHIFT FROM PRESENT POSTURE TO ECONOMIC ZONE CONCEPT IS PROBLEMATIC AND WILL DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON PRESSURE THEY FEEL FROM BRAZIL, BUT TEAM BELIEVES THEY MIGHT ACCEPT SUCH A SETTLEMENT IN FINAL ANALYSIS. IN THIS REGARD RODRIGUEZ AT ONE POINT IN DISCUSSIONS STOPPED THE PROCEEDINGS AND MADE OBSERVATION THAT US LOS POSITION OBVIOUSLY MISUNDERSTOOD BY MOST LATINS AND FOLLOWED THIS WITH WHAT AMOUNTED TO A PLEA THAT US "PUBLISH OUR POSITIONS AND GIVE THEM WIDE PUBLICITY." TEAM BELIEVES THIS, COUPLED WITH WIDE PRESS COVERAGE TEAM'S VISIT RECEIVED, MAY BE EFFORT BY GOU TO CONDITION PUBLIC OPINION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF ECONOMIC ZONE OR OTHER SHIFT IN

POLICY. IBARRA ONLY MEMBER OF GOU GROUP PRESENTLY
POSITIVELY GOING TO CARACAS. FROM KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST
DISPLAYED, HE MAY HAVE PLAYED ROLE IN DRAFTING OF GOU'S
ARTICLES ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND SEEMED TO BE THEIR
EXPERT ON SUBJECT. TEAM BELIEVES FURTHER CONTACT WITH
HIM ON ISSUE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED.
BREWSTER

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